

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace paragraph at pg. 1, lines 16-27, with the following amended paragraph:

-- Hitherto, a technique of shielding dust from optical apparatuses ~~have~~ has been proposed. The technique consists in vibrating a protective glass plate (glass dust shield) to remove dust from the glass dust shield. An example of this technique is disclosed in, for example, Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI Publication No. 2002-204379. In the example, a piezoelectric element is used as means for vibrating the glass dust shield. The piezoelectric element expands and contracts in response to the voltage applied on it. It vibrates the glass dust shield attached to it, at a predetermined frequency.--

Please replace paragraph at pg. 4, lines 14-22, with the following amended paragraph:

-- In another specific case, the user may try to shorten the time for rapid-sequence photographing, at the expense of image quality. He may reduce the number of pixels recorded for each image, thereby to shorten the time ~~[[of]]~~ required to access the medium, which stores the image data. If performed in this condition, the removal of dust will increase the release-time lag. Consequently, the rapid-sequence photographing speed decreases, against the user's intension.--

Please replace paragraph at pg. 6, line 27 – pg. <sup>7/</sup>~~8~~, line 10, with the following amended paragraph:

-- According to an eighth aspect of the invention, there is provided an imager apparatus of the type according to the fifth aspect. In the apparatus, the operation-prohibiting unit allows the vibration member to operate every time ~~[[an]]~~ a photographing operation is performed after the photographing-mode setting unit selects a single-shot photographing mode, and allows the operation-prohibiting unit to operate at only the first photographing and prohibits the vibration member from

2/21/08  
T.T.